

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-11 and 18-23 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis in regard to the recitation of “the first set of location-centric information.” The Applicants have amended claims 9-11 to correct the antecedent basis. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the rejection of claim 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,831,664 to Wharton et al. (“Wharton”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,611 to Kimoto et al. (“Kimoto”).

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wharton in view of Kimoto, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,413 to Weber et al. (“Weber”).

Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wharton in view of Kimoto, and further in view of Webber and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0092450 A1 to Juppi et al. (“Juppi”).

Claims 12, 13, 17 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,852,810 to Sotiroff et al. (“Sotiroff”) in view of Want and Wharton.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sotiroff in view of Want and Wharton, and further in view of Juppi.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sotiroff in view of Want and Wharton and Juppi, and further in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2006/0006990 A1 to Obradovich ("Obradovich").

Independent Claim 1 and its Dependent Claims

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wharton in view of Kimoto. The Examiner asserts that Wharton discloses a method of retrieving location-centric information as in claim 1, except Wharton does not expressly disclose that the geographic location is associated with a location of the electronic device. The Examiner further asserts that that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wharton to associate the identified geographic location with the location of the electronic device of Kimoto. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. The Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Kimoto with Wharton.

Wharton discloses a method and system for synchronizing data between a mobile interface device, such as a personal digital assistant (PDA), and an interactive terminal, such as a television. The system in Wharton provides data from a processor 18 to the interactive terminal 14 and/or the mobile interface device 12, via a set-top transceiver device 16. Wharton discloses that the mobile interface device 12 communicates with the transceiver device 18 with either wireless infra-red technology or a wireline communication. In each of these modes of communication, the mobile interface device 12 must be in close proximity to the transceiver device 18. Thus, as the Examiner has conceded, Wharton does not disclose or suggest that the mobile interface device 12 can be associated with the geographic location as recited in claim 1.

Kimoto discloses a mobile communication system that includes multiple mobile terminals 1 and an information center 2. Position data of the mobile terminals 1 can be communicated to the information system 2 and the information system 2 can send information relating to the position of the mobile terminal back to the mobile terminal 1. The Applicants

submit that there would have been no motivation to combine the mobile terminal location information feature of the Kimoto system with the system of Wharton. In fact, Wharton expressly provides for a system that can only be used without actually being present at the geographic location being queried. For example, Wharton discloses that the invention is aimed at reducing the necessity of a prospective home buyer from having to travel to a property to find out information about that property (see, for example, col. 4, ll. 42-46). Also, as stated above, the mobile interface device 12 of Wharton can only communicate with the transceiver device 16 when in close proximity to the transceiver device 16. Thus, Wharton teaches away from the geographic location being associated with the location of the electronic device. To combine the mobile terminal location information feature of the Kimoto system with the Wharton system would be contrary to the teachings of Wharton and would eviscerate the intended purpose of the Wharton system.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that at least for this reason claim 1 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 1, claims 2-6, and 18-20 are also allowable.

Independent Claim 7 and its Dependent Claims

Independent claim 7 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wharton in view of Kimoto. The Examiner concedes that Wharton does not disclose or suggest “providing information related to a geographic location associated with a position of an electronic device to an information system,” as recited in claim 7. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has impermissibly combined Wharton and Kimoto to make up for this deficiency, as there would have been no motivation to combine the mobile terminal location information feature of the Kimoto system with the system of Wharton.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that at least for this reason, claim 7 is allowable. Based at least upon their dependence from claim 7, claims 8-11, and 21-23 are also allowable.

Independent Claim 12 and its Dependent Claims

Independent claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sotiroff in view of Want and Wharton. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sotiroff to include the feature of outputting information about a particular geographic location when a user of a portable device is present at the location as suggested by Want and to further modify Sotiroff to provide a database configured to output location-centric information associated with a property . . . that includes a list of selectable icons as suggested by Wharton. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion, but have canceled claim 12 and its dependent claims to advance prosecution, rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection in the Office Action have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

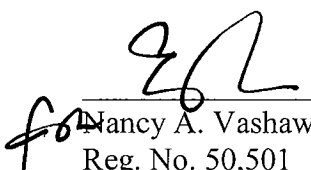
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Dated: FEBRUARY 15, 2007

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313290 v1/RE

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